

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for effecting audible communication between a local system and a remote system over a Wide Area Network (WAN), comprising:

a remote modem configured in said remote system and receiving telephone transmission signals;

a converter electrically interconnected to a telephone interconnection of said remote modem and <sup>splitting portion of</sup> ~~receiving~~ said telephone transmission signals therefrom and providing an audio output signal;

an interface machine receiving said audio output signal from said converter, said interface machine including a first sound processing mechanism processing said audio output signal for transmission over said WAN as a network audio signal;

a second sound processing mechanism configured at said local system, receiving said network audio signal and processing said network audio signal to provide a continuous audio signal at said local system.

2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said remote system includes a remote telephone interconnected to a telephone interconnection of said remote modem.

3. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said interface machine is a computer and said first sound processing mechanism is a sound card running on said computer and configured to run an audio streaming program.

4. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said second sound processing mechanism is a sound card running on said local system and configured to run an audio streaming program.